## PROKOFIEFF'S MUSIC AND THE BLUE TOMATO OF MATISSE

# Ugliness and Complication Certain to Result When Fundamentals Are Made Secondary in Any Art

By W. J. HENDERSON.

NCE upon a time, when the winds of June tempered the emotions of ante-bellum Paris, a distinguished American painter, who dwelt in the atmosphere surrounding the awful throne of Bougereau, went out to a certain secluded spot in the country where Matisse was wont to fashion his amazing color schemes. The visitor found the painter engaged in the peaceful occupation of painting a still life.

Before him upon a table rested a few modest vegetables, among which a large, bulging tomato held the central position. Looking at the picture, the visitor noted that the tomato appeared in a heavenly robe of cobalt. Dismayed but for a moment, he said to himself:

"It is some new scheme of superimposing tints. This is the priming and presently the tomato will put on its natural skin and we shall have a new and beautiful color effect."

But the tomato was apparently finished, as the visitor noted after a time, and then he ventured to remark:

"I see you're painting the tomato blue."

"Oh, yes," replied Matisse, "A tomato is a singularly interesting vegetable and is greatly misunderstood. When you pick it from the vine it is red. When you cook it it is red. When you eat it it is red. But when you paint it it is blue."

One is inevitably driven to such points of view when listening to such music as proceeds out of the brain of Prokofieff and such piano playing as he dispenses with his two mighty hands. One writes about this sort of thing, heaves a sigh of relief when the task is ended, and dismisses it from his mind.

But is it mutton? Anyhow, we return to it. We cannot drop the pesky thing. It rises up against us in the silences of the night when anti-prohibitionists scream their tortuous ways homeward through the reverberating streets or automobiles bark staccato warnings at them as they execute their unpremeditated pedestrian roulades.

When Prokofieff played his fourth sonata at his Aeolian Hall recital on Monday last, auditors were affected in a variety of ways. One woman near the present writer was convulsed with laughter. Another not far off stared with open mouth. Still a third beat the arm of her chair impatiently with her shapely hand.

But outside the concert hall the ever recurring question which is addressed to the professional commentator is this: "Are all these fellows they used to be has been intimated honest? Do they really believe this stuff or are they just assuming a pose for the purpose of making us all sit up?"

Friend, music is a singularly inter- | hand of a charming woman of the esting art, and is greatly misunder- highest culture and social experience. stood. When you buy it in a music "Who is the costore it is red, and when you read it it night?" she asked. s red, but when you play it it is blue.

music."

The scribe told who he was "Well." declared the gentlewoman Matisse's method of answering the inquiry seems to be the only possible Of course you always have the shot. privilege of paraphrasing the sensible remark of Patience about Bunthorne's What the Critics Say Verbally.

Critics never write such things as that. I think it was Mr. Huneker who proposed many years ago the collections of things the critics said but never wrote. The occasion of the proposition was the entrance of Reginal de Koven into the pressroom with "Well, if that's music I don't like Almost Cruelty to Discuss It. The subject is so old and the discus-

sion so tireless that it is almost crueity to extend it. Yet there is one aspect of the case which must be presented once again. The advocates of what is composed in musical art—which content of the case which must be presented as the distinguished composer of concernation of Musicians. New Symphony Orchestra Society of the New Content of the Conten progress according to their theory can remarked as if in sollloquy; "He's a white voiced tabby!"

"He's a white voiced tabby!"

And yet in the sum total of the records truth is mighty and does prevail, albeit parliamentary language is generally employed and the decencies of art and are unable to comprehend it. We admit it. But the man who makes his first visit to Egypt and for the first time in his life beholds the

Greatest Art the Simplest.

The greatest Art is simple, always will be. The rococo is was and always will be. The rococo is or three years back. Most of the rich beauty and sonority is gone and only ling disguise it presents itself to us.

The above might also be said of season.

The membership of the executive complete direction of Richard Hageman, will be direction of Richard Hageman, will overture and includes Mrs. Newbold Le Roy Edgar, Liadows "Baba Gaga." "Tab Enchanted Wrs. Charles S. Guggenheimer, Mrs. Lake" and "Kiki Mora."

The above might also be said of the membership of the executive complete with the direction of Richard Hageman, will be direction of Richard Hageman, will be direction of Richard Hageman, will be was and always will be. The rococo is or three years back. Most of the rich beauty and sonority is gone and only Harry Payne Whitney and others of like wealth and social position.

CHICAGO OPERA COMPANY. the public the truth?

J. J. SMITH. premise upon which the letter is set, the musical editor of THE SUN begs new ideas. He has written beautiful leave to demur. He has written no music and he has enriched many of criticism of Mme. Galli-Curci's voice hjef subject matter. "Petruschka" is only of description.

one of Stravinsky's most admirable conceptions, and it is now presented at ruso's voice is not what it was ten the Metropolitan Opera House in a years ago is unnecessarily harsh.
Doubtless both he and Miss Farrar The cruelest critic is the discrimi- are well aware that their voices show nating listener who pays his good signs of hard service and undue strain money to hear music and believes that in the ceaseless endeavor to meet the not ceived guid pro qua demants of an insatiable public.

was stopped by the outstretched about the depreciation of certain

amiable dispenser of observations | But to harp continually upon this in this place entered the Metropolitan string is not the duty of the critic. an evening, and on his way to his The habitual operagoer knows

### OPERA OF THE WEEK.

Metropolitan Opera House.

MONDAY, 8:15 P. M .- "L'Elisir d'Amore," Mme. Barrientos, Messrs. Caruso and De Luca.

ATURDAY, 2 P. M .- "La Reine Fiammette," Mme. Farrar, Mr.

SATURDAY, 8 P. M .- "Il Trovatore," Mmes. Muzio and Matzenauer, Messrs. Crimi and Montesanto.

Chicago Opera Company, Lexington Theatre.
MONDAY—"Cleopatre," Miss Garden, Miss Fitziu, Messrs. Fontaine

Dolci and Stracciari. WEDNESDAY-"La Traviata," Mme. Galli-Curci, Messrs. Dolci and

THURSDAY-"Pelleas and Melisande," Miss Garden, Messrs. Maguenat and Bouilliez.

"Le Vieil Aigle," Miss Peralta, Mr. Doici, Mme, Galli-Carci; Yvonne Gall, Mr. Baklanoff.

SATURDAY, 8 P. M.—"Rigoletto," Mmes. Macbeth and Claessens,



CONCERTS, RECITALS, NOTES OF

piano recital this afternoon in Carnegle
Hall. The works in the programme are
all marked as new here. They are: Variations on a theme by Chopin, opus 22,
Robins at the Recognition of the Robins at the Ro

prospect for the society is the victory and peace celebration, which includes three concerts in Carnegle Hall on

Mme. Eva Gauthier and the Russian Symphony Orchestra will also take part Charlier the third.

The farewell performance Saturday Symphony Orchestra will also take part, night will be "Rigoletto," with Riccardo Stracciari in the name part, and a further cast including Florence Macbeth, Mmmes. Claessens, Berat, Peterson; Meers, Ciccolini, Arimondi, Nicolay, Oltsies, C. Collini, Arimondi, Nicolay, C. Collini, Arimondi, C. Colli

President William Wade Hinshaw o CONCERTS, RECITALS, NOTES OF MUSIC.

Sergei Rachmaninoff will give a third the opera's composer, Reginal de Koven, will conduct the performance of this work to morrow night. The last all marked as new here. They are: Variations on a theme by Chopin, opus 22, Rachmanizeff; sonate fantaisle, opus 12, Scriabine; eight preludes, opus 11, two etudes, opus 42, Scriabine; tragedie fragment, opus 7, three Falry Stories, opus 20, 26, N. Medtner; six etudes, tableaux. Rachmanizeff.

Harold Bauer will be the soloist at the concert of the Symphony Society in Acolian Hall this afternoon. He will be heard in Brahm's D minor piane concerto. The orchestra will play the same composer's first symphony. Following this concert the orchestra leaves for a ten day tour in the middle West. Upon its return the important event that is in prospect for the society is the victory

first recital here on Tuesday extening at Carnegie Hall. The programme: "Ah! Perfido." Beethoven; "Hai luli," Coquard; "Asie," from "Scheherazade," Nicolette." Ravel; Chanson Norveglenne, Fourdrain; "Songs of Grusia," "Floods of Spring," Rachmaninoff; two "Floods of Spring," Rachmaninoff; two Armenian melodies, ancient folk songs; "Colma's Song," Litany, Schubert; "The Lotus Flower," Schumann; "Do Not Go, My Love," Hageman; "I Know Where I'm Going," Irish country song; "Deep River," old negro melody; "Daddy's Sweetheart," Lehmann.

The Berkshire String Quartet will give its second concert on Tuesday evening at Acollan Hall. The programme com-prises three quartets, Beethoven's, in E flat, opus 127, Alois Reiser's, in E mi-nor, qpus 16, and Dittersdorf's, in E flat. recital on Tuesday afternoon, Februar 25, in Acolian Hall. She will play the Bach-Liszt organ prelude and fugue, Beethoven's C miner variations, Schu-

mann's G minor sonata, three poems by Scriabine, two pieces by Rhene-Baton, Chopin's berceuse and Liszt's "Venezia E Napoli" tarantelle. Folksongs of Great and Little Russia will be sung by prominent artists on Tucsday evening in Cooper Union Hall at the sixth folksong concert given by the People's Music League of the People's Institute.

At the concert of the Humanitarian Cult Society on Wednesday evening, February 26, in Carnegie Hall, Beryl Ru-binstein, pianist, and Betty McKenna, soprano, will give the programme. Mr. Rubinstein's numbers include Liszt's



TRANCES ALDA to sing farewell THURSDAY.

(Lexington Theatre.)

MARY GARDEN

Chicago grand opera season at the Lexington Theatre General Director Campa-

The spring series of concerts will be Fontaino, Maguenat, Huberdeau, Nico-inaugurated in Carnegie Hall with two lay, Defrere, Pavley, Oukrainsky and concerts on April 11 and 12. Four more ballet, conducted by Mr. Charlier.

Gound's "Mireille." ninth of General danager Gatti-Casagga's promised nov-Gounds Miretine in the MetropoliMessrs. Doici. Strategic Caszars, promised novelties and revivals this season, will be
Oliviero, St. Leger. Virgilio Lazzari.
Nicolay and Defrere, with Mr. Polacco

Other operas this week will be as fol-was:

Garden, Alfred Maguenat, Mme. Berat. Curci: March Joyeuse. Miss Lamare. Messrs. Bouilliez, Huber. ductor, Louis Hasseli deau and Nicolay, with Mr. Charller at plano, Homer Samuels.

Pada and Schlegel. Mr. Moranzoni will conduct.

"La Boheme" on Thursday evening, with Mmes. Alda and Sparkes and Messre. Caruso, Montesanto, De Segurola, Ananian. Malatesta, Reschiglian, d'Angelo and Audisio. Mr. Papi will conduct the first time in New York, with Georges Baklanoff in the week's Saturday matinee opera, sung by Mmes. Farrar, Mellish, Tiffany. Beale.

Ellis, Sparkes, Arden, Howard, Perini

Dolci as Turidds, Mr. Maguenat as Alfo, of the Institute of Musical Art and W. J. Hall. The programme includes a sonata will as Lucia; the fourth act from "Hamlet" of the Institute of Musical Art and W. J. Hall. The programme includes a sonata will be by J. C. de Mondonville, Mozart's E flat concerts and compositions by Gardner and Ornstein. 184 Eldridge and Ornstein.

At the society's concert on March 2 Lucy Gates, soprane, will be the soluist. The Beigian tragedian, Carlo Liten, will also appear, and with the orchestra he will recite "Carillon" and "Drapeau

"Forza del Destino." Verdi, conductor, Cleofonte Campanini; songs, The Lass with the Delicate Air, Arne, Si mes vers, Hahn, Bourbenaise, "Manon Lessaut," Auber, Mine, Galli-Curci; Fourth Rhapsody, Liezt, conductor, Cleofonte Campanini; suite, Impressions of Italy, Charpentier, conductor, Louis Hasselmans; Mad Scene, "Lucia." Donizetti, flute obligato, M. Berenguer, Mine, Galli-Curci; March Joyeuse, Chabrier, conductor, Louis Hasselmans, At the plano, Homer Samuels. Galli, Smith, Ogden, Roggie and Rudolph and Messrs, Bolm, Bonfiglio, Bartik and Agnini. Mr. Monteux will conduct.

Thursday night's repetition of "PellCharpentier, conductor, Louis Hasselrans; Mad Scene, "Lucia." Donizetti,
the same cast as before, including Mary
flute obligate, M. Berenguer, Mme. Galli-

which the settlement has been present-ing this season on Sunday evenings.

Brahms, intermezzo, Capriccio; Chopin, three preludes; Liszt, sonata; Busoni, intermezzo; Grieg, notturno; Debussy, Reflets dans l'eau; Gabrilowitsch, price Burlesque.

Curci; March Joyeuse, Chabrier, conductor, Louis Hasselmana. At the plano, Homer Samuels.

This evening John Powell will give a lecture recital on "Music of the Romantic Period" at the University Settlement, Rivington and Eldridge streets. This lecture is one of a series of illustrated talks on the "Appreciation of Music" Vera Earstow, violings, recently recommendated the settlement has been present.

CONCERTS OF THE WEEK.

SUNDAY—Sergei Rachmaninoff, pianist, Carnegie Hall, 3 P. M. Symphony Society, Acolian Hall, 3 P. M. Sasha Votichenko, tympansonist, Maxine Elliott's Theatre, 8:45 P. M. Opera concert, Metropolitan Opera House, 8:30 P. M. Concert of Chicago Opera Company, Hippodrome, 8:15 P. M.

MONDAY—Pietro Yon, organ recital Acolian Hall, 8:15 P. M.

TUESDAY—Halon Kanders, songan, Carnegie Hall, 8:15 P. M.

TUESDAY—Helen Kanders, soprano, Carnegie Hall, 8:15 P. M. Eleanor Spencer, pianist, Acolian Hall, 3 P. M. Berkshire String Quartet, Aeolian Hall, 8:15 P. M. Folk song concert, auspices

People's Music League, Cooper Union Hall, 8:15 P. M. WEDNESDAY—Humanitarian Cult concert, Carnegie Hall, 8:15 P. M. THURSDAY—Philharmonic Society, Carnegie Hall, 8:30 P. M. Olga Samaroff, pianist, Aeolian Hall, 3 P. M. Mme. Ruano Bogislav, song recital, Princess Theatre, 3:30 P. M. Muri Silba, pianist, Acolian Hall, 2:15 P. Aeolian Hall, 8:15 P. M.

FRIDAY—Philharmonic Society, Carnegie Hall, 2:30 P. M. Biltmore Musicale, Hotel Biltmore, 11 A. M. Vera Barstow, violinist, Acolian Hall, 8:15 P. M.

SATURDAY—Mischa Levitzki, pianist, Carnegie Hall, 2:30 P. M. Vladimir Resnikoff, barytone, Aeolian Hall, 3 P. M.

AEOLIAN HALL, Friday Aft., February 28, at 3 P. M ONLY PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN NEW YORK OF

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METROPOLITAN OPERA

Mon. at 8.15. Ellian aruso, Didur Malatesta Cond. Papi, aruso, Didur Malatesta Cond. Papi, Wed. at 8. Tabarro Angellica Gianni Wed. at 8. Tabarro Muzio, Easton Crimi Caruso, at 8-15. Boheme. Anda. Sparkes Caruso, Montesantes, Segarois, Cond., Papl. Frl. at 8-1st Time: Mireille, Barcientos, Howard: Barket, Whitehill, Bothler, followed by Petruschka, additional Cond. Monteux, Sat. at 2. Reine Flammette. Farar Perlii Ellis, Lazaro. Rothler, Didur. Cond. Monteux, Sat. at 8-75e to 85 Trovatore. Muzio, Matzenauer Crimi, Montesanto, Cond., Papl. TO-NIGHT VCIORIA BOSHKO

Entire Orchestra LUGI MONTESANTO

MANINE TO-NIGHT AT

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MANIMILIAN ROSE

Therefore we shall have to wait till

the stirring up of the waters by Messrs, Scriabin, Prokofieff et al. has

settled before we can decide what re-

Meanwhile it may be noted that one

early what may be done with the

a pages with the devices which some

for Stravinsky has shown pretty

mains that is excellent.

manner quite delightful.

WEDNESDAY-"Il Tabarro," "Suor Angelica," "Gianni Schicchi," Mmes. Muzio, Farrar and Easton; Messrs. Crimi and De Luca.
IIIURSDAY, 8:15 P. M.—"La Boheme," Mme. Alda, Miss Sparkes;

Messrs. Caruso and Montesanto.
FRIDAY—"Mireille," "Petruschka," Mme. Barrientos, Mr. Hackett;
Misses. Galli and Smith, Messrs. Bolm and Bonfiglio.

and Maguenat. TUESDAY-"Fedora," Miss Dorothy Jardon, Mme. Namara, Messrs.

RIDAY-"La Boheme," Mme. Melba, Mr. Ciccolini,

voices. The proper theme for critical comment is the art of the singer. That has been candidly discussed in these columns and in those of other newspapers in this city. That the materials upon which the many times, but not perhaps in such

direct and clearly defined terms as

MME.

MELBA.

THEATRE

FRIDAY

NIGHT

those used in this pungent letter. "Who is the conductor here to- THE NEW SYMPHONY ORCHES-TRA OF NEW YORK.

"Well." declared the gentlewoman with calm decision, "he ought to be week to the New Symphony Orchestra shot." - With the granting of a charter this week to the New Symphony Orchestra of New York interest in this band of musicians now centres in the rather novel method of organization which they

The by-laws and rules of the New York Federation of Musicians make it

by admit it. But the man which follows in the shape of a letter to the first time in his life beholds the spin and of the first time in his life beholds the work of art before?

A man goes to India and for the first time in his life sees the Taj Mahal. He is confronted with a (to him) entirely new species of art. Does he immediately decide that the structure is ugly? Another man travels into Japan and for the first time in his life sees the read bronze Buddha. Does he call it uses a fert the first time in his life sees the work of art before?

Another man travels into Japan and for the first time in his life sees the work of art work of a work of art work of a work of a work of art work of a wor

susgestion of the Caruso voice. His The musicians' society sciected Edgar scooping for G and higher tones was a Varese, the young French composer and painful thing to watch and listen to.
Why are there no honest critics to tell Symphony Orchestra chose S. E. Macmillen as buriness manager. Offices have been opened and established at 25

addition to their salaries.

given for the first time in the Metropolican Opera House on Friday evening of this week. It will be sung by Mmes, Harrientos, Delaunois, Howard and Tiffany and Messrs, Hackett, Rothler, Whitehill and Ananian, Mr. Monteux will conduct. "Mireille" will be followed by "Patrousebles," days of the Misser Scholer, William and Defrere, with Mr. Polacco as conductors. by "Petrouschka," danced by the Misses conductor.
Galli, Smith, Ogden, Roggie and Rudolph and Messrs, Bolm, Bonfiglio, Barcas and M

"L'Elisir d'Amore," on Monday eve- the baton

"Il Elisir d'Amore." on Monday evening with Mimes. Barrientos and Sparkes and Messra. Caruso, De Luca and Malatesta. Mr. Papi will conduct.
"Il Tabarro." "Suor Angelica" and Gianni Schicchi" on Wednesday evening, with Mmes. Farrar, Muzio. Easton.Gentic, Perini, Howard. Arden. Sundeilus. Ellis. Egener, Beale. Fornia and Mattfeld and Messrs. Crimi. De Luca. Montesanto, C'Angelo, Reschigliaff. De Segurola. Ma. three selections: "Cavaileria Rusticano"." d'Angelo, Reschiglian, De Segurola, Ma-latesta, Didur, Ananian, Paltrinieri, with Francesca Peralta as Santuzza, Mr. Pada and Schlegel. Mr. Moranzoni will Dolci as Turiddu, Mr. Maguenat as Alfio,

For the fifth and final week of the March 7, 13 and 15, in collaboration with | rhapsody No. 8 and Anton Rubinstein's

J. J. SMITH.

Alas, why not? But referring to the premise upon which the letter is set, the musical editor of The Sun begs accepted nominal salaries. It has been grammes not formerly presented this Thursday evening, February 27 and grammes not formerly presented this Friday afternoon, February 28, in Cartering to the processing of the process of the Three important debuts will bring

> chestra, to be placed in a sinking fund | Mary Garden and the same cast as for future seasons, and 10 per cent each before will repeat Massonet's "Cleoto Mr. Varese and Mr. Macmillen in patre" on Monday night, including Mmes, Fitziu and Noe and the Messrs.

> METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE. Glordano's "Fedora," which has not been presented in New years, will be revived Tuesday night

Effem Zimbalist will be the soloistat air, "Il Est Doux," and songs by Kom-

ideas. He has written beautiful leave to demur. He has written no arranged through the indication of the season.

Three important debuts will bring regist a programme is as follows: Schumann, Symphony No. 1; by the devices which some of far as he can remember. Her art is a subject of criticism, her voice others exalt to the position of Stravinsky's most admirable.

To say in blunt terms that Mr. Ca
Olga Samaroff, Maniet, will give season. Three important debuts will bring programme is as follows: Schumann, Symphony No. 1; by the p

Mme, Galil-Curci will be the singer at the fourth and lost in the cries of concerts by the visiting Chicago Opera Company at the Hippodrome this evening. The programme: Overture, "Le Maschere," Mascagni, conductor, Giuseppe Sturani; aria, Bell song, "Lakme," Delibes, Mme, Galil-Curci; overture, "Forza del Destino," Verdi, conductor, Cleofonte Campanini; songs, The Lass with the Delibes, The Delibes, The Delibes, The Campanini; songs, The Lass Mme. Ruano Bogislav will give "an

ing this season on Sunday evenings, turned from France, where for many Among those who have already given months she played in the trenches and these lecture recitals have been Prof. close behind the battle line in the Ar-Daniel Gregory Mason of Columbia Uni-

CONCERT N. T. HIPPODROME.

but', Rimini, Pavloska, Huberdeaud, Stureni, Stureni ist, "Lucia di Lammer-ort," Galli-Curci, Dolci, Rimini, Cond., upanini and "Le Vieil Algle", First e in N. Y. Evonne Gall, Baklanoff, Raine, Defrere, Cond. Chapter and Night, FAREWELL, FERFORM-CE, "Rigoletto", Popular, Pricesi, ceiart, Macbeth, Ciccolni, Arimondi, d., Polacco.

Acollan Hall, Sun. Aft., Mar. 2d, at 3. SONG RECITAL. EMILIO DEGOGORZA

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HIPPODROME TO-NIGHT

LUCY GATES SOFRANO CARLO LITEN Tragedian, will

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- LEXINGTON THEATRE—
FAREWELL WEEK.

1. "Cleopatre," Garden, Maguenat, in, Fontaine, Paviey-Oukrainsky BalCond., Charlier.

2. "Fedora." Derothy Jardon DeDoiel, Namara, Stracciari. Cond., coo. AND PEACE" ccc.
L., "La Traytata." Galli-Curci, Dolci,
cciari, Tell. Cond., Polacco,
tra., "Pelleas and Mellisande." GarMaguenat, Boutiliez, Huberdeau, Lae Cond., Chartier.
, "La Boheme: Melba Ciccolini
but), Rimini, Payloska, Huberdeau,
d Sturani,

HAROLD BAUER

Concert at 8:30

SELWYN THEATRE

CARNEGIE HALL Saturday March 1

**Kachmaninoff** 

morning musicale will be held in the ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel Friday morning. February 28. Mme. Galli-morning. February 28. Mme. Galli-

RESNIKOFF